

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☐

Property Name: Strawberry Hill Farm Inventory Number: HA-2175
Address: 2815 Calvary Road Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no
City: Bel Air Zip Code: 21015 County: Harford
USGS Quadrangle(s): Edgewood
Property Owner: Schenning Family Properties LLC Tax Account ID Number: 084135
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 69 Tax Map Number: 57
Project: Section 200: I-95, North of MD 43 to North of MD 22 Agency: Maryland Transportation Authority
Agency Prepared By: A.D. Marble & Company
Preparer's Name: Emma Young Date Prepared: 9/27/2006
Documentation is presented in: Harford County Office of Land Records, Bel Air, Maryland.
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☐ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes Listed: ☐ yes
Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Architectural Description:

Strawberry Hill Farm, located at 2815 Calvary Road, Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland, is a late-nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century farm complex situated on a 252.44-acre tract on the east side of Calvary Road. A long gravel farm lane leads east from Calvary Road to the main dwelling and domestic and agricultural outbuildings that comprise the farm. The property remains in active agricultural use and retains the feeling of an early twentieth-century farm complex with crop fields and pastureland surrounding the building cluster.

Strawberry Hill Farm retains a historic house (circa 1880), barn, and several domestic and agricultural outbuildings from the early twentieth century, including a hay barn, horse barn, and dairy complex. The property also contains various modern buildings, including an equipment shed and a cow barn. Additionally, the farm retains features reflective of two local trends in agriculture: crop farming (hay barn and equipment shed) and dairy farming (dairy barn, milk parlor, and milk house).

Dwelling

The main dwelling, oriented on a north-south axis, is a two-and-a-half-story, brick, circa-1880, L-shaped dwelling. The dwelling

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MHT Comments:

Ann Stanbury
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

7/2/07
Date

B. Kuntz
Reviewer, National Register Program

7/9/07
Date

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was largely reconstructed, including a replacement brick exterior and replacement windows, circa 1980. The symmetrical façade faces south towards the farm lane. The cross-gable roof, sheathed in asphalt shingles, features an exterior brick chimney on the north elevation. The dwelling contains a modern exterior comprised of brick laid in a bond of continuous running stretchers. The dwelling sits atop a full brick foundation.

The south (front) elevation measures three bays wide. A one-story, one-bay, entry porch shelters the main entry into the dwelling, which occupies the center bay. A pedimented roof, supported by decorative aluminum posts and brackets, caps the porch, which is comprised of a brick landing and a decorative aluminum balustrade. The main entry consists of a single-leaf, wooden, paneled door, complete with a two-light aluminum storm door. A five-light transom tops the doorway. Five sets of paired, six-over-six light, double-hung sash, aluminum, replacement windows are evenly spaced on the south elevation. A pair of inoperable, aluminum, louvered, shutters flanks each opening. A single, four-over-four light, double-hung sash, wooden window is located in the cross gable.

The west elevation features three unevenly spaced bays. The first floor consists of two sets of paired, six-over-six light, double-hung sash, aluminum replacement windows. The second floor contains three sets of paired, six-over-six light, double-hung sash, aluminum replacement windows. An aluminum lintel and sill frames each set of windows. A single, six-over-six light, double-hung sash, wooden window is located in the gable.

The north (rear) elevation of the dwelling features a two-and-a-half-story, front-gabled ell with a two-story, shed-roof, extension on the west elevation and a one-story, shed-roof extension on the north elevation. The second story of the main block is clad in aluminum siding. The north elevation features an irregular fenestration pattern. A double-leaf, aluminum bulkhead door is located underneath the easternmost bay of the rear ell. Two, one-over-one light, double-hung sash, aluminum windows are located on the first floor. The second floor consists of a six-over-six light, double-hung sash, aluminum window. A single, two-over-two light, double-hung sash, aluminum window occupies the easternmost bay of the one-story shed addition, while a single, three-over-three light, double-hung sash, aluminum window occupies the second story of the two-story shed-roof addition.

The east elevation contains two evenly spaced bays on the main (south) block and two irregularly spaced bays on the rear ell. The first floor of the main block consists of two, single, one-over-one light, double-hung sash, wooden windows encased within an aluminum surround. The second floor contains two, single, six-over-six light, double-hung sash, aluminum windows. The first floor of the rear ell features a single, two-over-two light, double-hung sash, aluminum window. An aluminum awning shelters the northernmost bay, which contains a secondary entrance comprised of a two-light, aluminum storm door accessed by three brick steps. The second floor of the rear ell, clad in aluminum siding, features two, six-over-six light, double-hung sash, aluminum windows.

Garage

To the northeast of the dwelling sits a one-story, two-bay, circa-1930, frame garage, in fair condition and currently used for storage. The exterior is clad in board-and-batten siding, painted red, and the asymmetrical gable roof is sheathed in standing seam metal. The west (front) elevation features two open bays divided by a wooden post. The north, south, and east elevations are devoid of openings.

Milk house

A one-story, one-bay, circa-1940, concrete block milk house, standing in good condition, is located to the south of the garage. A hipped roof, sheathed in asphalt shingles, protects the building. A single-leaf, whitewashed, board and batten door, located on the north elevation, provides the only opening into the milk house.

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Equipment Shed

To the east of the milk house sits a one-story, three-bay, circa-1900, frame equipment shed in fair condition. Board and batten siding, with traces of red paint, covers the exterior. An asymmetrical gable roof, clad in standing seam metal, caps the long, rectangular building. The south (front) elevation features three, unevenly spaced openings, concealed with sliding, board and batten, barn doors. A single-leaf, pedestrian entrance, comprised of a board and batten door attached with metal strap hinges, occupies the southernmost bay of the west elevation. Two, evenly spaced, six-light, fixed-sash, wooden windows complete the west elevation. The north and east elevations contain no openings.

Hay Barn

A two-story, circa-1900, frame hay barn, currently used for storage and standing in fair condition, is located to the east of the equipment shed. Board and batten siding, painted red, covers the exterior of the building, which sits atop a rusticated concrete block foundation. The steeply pitched, gambrel roof, clad in standing seam metal and featuring flared eaves and a hay hood, caps the building. A single-leaf, pedestrian entrance is located in the southernmost bay of the west elevation. A square opening, concealed with plywood, occupies the northernmost bay of the west elevation.

The north and south elevations each contain three, evenly spaced, eight-light, awning-sash, wooden windows. The east elevation is devoid of openings.

Horse Barn

A two-and-a-half-story, circa-1900, frame horse barn, standing in good condition, is located to the east of the hay barn. The exterior of the building was resided in vertical aluminum siding circa 2000. A gambrel roof, sheathed in asphalt shingles and featuring flared eaves, caps the building, which sits atop a rusticated concrete block foundation. The west (front) elevation contains one bay, which consists of a sliding door centrally located on each of the floors. The north, east, and south elevations contain no openings.

A one-story, three-bay addition, clad in aluminum siding, extends from the southeast corner of the barn. The addition is capped with a gambrel roof, sheathed in standing seam metal. A single, six-over-six light, double-hung sash, wooden window is located on both the east and west elevations of the addition. A tall, circa-1980, concrete stave silo with an aluminum cap towers over the barn from the east. Two, larger concrete silos, capped with rounded metal crowns, are located further to the south.

Dairy Complex

A large dairy complex is located to the southeast of the hay barn. The dairy complex features a two-story, circa-1920, gambrel roof, frame dairy barn in the center. The first floor is comprised of concrete block, while the second floor is sheathed in aluminum siding. A one-story, front-gabled, rectangular, circa-1930, concrete block milk house is attached to the north elevation of the dairy barn; a wide, side-gabled, circa-1930 frame stable is attached to the south side of the dairy barn. The south and east elevations of the stable are completely open. A long, rectangular, circa-1980, side-gabled cow barn, comprised of aluminum siding and concrete block, extends the length of the dairy barn on the eastern side. A one-story, side-gabled, frame shed is attached directly to the south elevation of the cow barn. Overall, the dairy complex stands in good condition.

Post-1958 Resources

The continued agricultural use of the property necessitated the construction of modern agricultural outbuildings on the property. Aside from those incorporated into the dairy complex, the property also features two freestanding modern buildings.

A massive, six-bay, circa-1985, frame equipment shed, clad in vertical aluminum siding, is located immediately to the east of the hay barn. A large, circa-1985, frame cow barn is located to the southwest of the dairy complex. Both of these buildings are similar

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in size, construction, and materials and are incorporated into the historic farm plan.

Historical Narrative:

By a deed dated March 31, 1888, James Walsh purchased a 132-acre farm on the public road from Creswell to Bush in consideration of \$6,500 (Harford County Land Record Liber 61, Folio 376). The 132-acre farm consisted of a parts of several tracts known as "Ranger's Lodge," "Strawberry Hills," and "Turkey Hills." Within the next several months, Walsh continued to purchase farms and/or tracts of land in the vicinity of his March 1888 acquisition. James Walsh died sometime prior to May 17, 1890, when his will was probated with the Harford County Recorder of Wills (Harford County Will Liber 11, Folio 99).

In what appears to be an attempt to settle the estate of James Walsh several decades later, James Walsh (younger) conveyed to Mary Walsh three farms on January 8, 1932 in consideration of \$29,000 (Harford County Deed Liber 221, Folio 293). The estate consisted of three farms known as "Strawberry Hill Farm" (262 acres), "Friendship Farm" (316 acres), and "Belcamp Farm" (138.75 acres). Shy of two months, Mary Walsh, by a deed bearing the date February 24, 1932, conveyed the 262-acre Strawberry Hill Farm to James Walsh. James Walsh then conveyed Strawberry Hill Farm to the Harford Bank of Bel Air by a deed dated May 5, 1932 (Harford County Land Record Liber 223, Folio 222).

Approximately one year later, the State Road Commission of Maryland improved Calvary Road. This improvement caused the existing road to "depart in many places from the old road" (recited in Harford County Land Record Liber 227, Folio 122). For example, small strips of land once located along the east side of Calvary Road on the pre-1933 alignment were now located along the west side of Calvary Road following the circa-1933 improvement. On June 24, 1933, the Harford Bank of Bel Air and Edward A. Dietrich entered into a transaction where all of the Dietrich land that lay on the east side of the newly improved Calvary Road was transferred to the Strawberry Hill Farm and all of the Strawberry Hill Farm land that lay on the west side of the newly improved Calvary Road transferred to Dietrich (Harford County Plat Book Liber 2, Folio 163). It is unclear how much additional land this added to Strawberry Hill Farm.

The Harford Bank of Bel Air retained ownership of Strawberry Hill farm until February 7, 1937. With a deed bearing this date, the property was transferred to Samuel and Edith Fielder. At the time of this conveyance, Strawberry Hill Farm measured 275.72 acres (Harford County Land Record Liber 244, Folio 235). The Fielder's retained ownership of the farm for twenty years. The Schenning family purchased Strawberry Hill Farm on March 15, 1957 (Harford County Land Record Liber 478, Folio 88). This deed also included a 57.9-acre tract of land located to the north of the farm. Strawberry Hill Farm is still owned by members of the Schenning family today, under the auspices of Schenning Family Properties LLC (Harford County Land Record Liber 4587, Folio 24).

Agricultural Practices in Harford County

During the second half of the eighteenth century, Baltimore emerged as the nation's leading exporter of grain, a ranking retained until 1827, when it was surpassed by New York. The position of Baltimore was enhanced in 1768, when the county seat moved from Joppa to Baltimore.

Prior to 1773, present-day Harford County was apt of Baltimore County. After the creation of Harford County, the area excelled in grain production and was responsible for much of the grain exported from the port of Baltimore. Throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth century, Harford County specialized in large-scale corn and wheat cultivation. Harford County farmers often kept sizeable herds of livestock. In Harford County, the combined efforts of grain cultivation and animal husbandry required a diversified assortment of specialized agricultural structures including hay barns, stables, wagon sheds, milk houses, granaries, corn cribs, and hen houses that were not common in bordering counties.

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The twentieth century ushered in dairy farming practices to Harford County. Consequently, dairy farmers expanded their multipurpose barns to accommodate milking parlors on the ground floor. Milk houses became commonplace on many early twentieth-century farms. Thus, the agricultural landscapes, including individual farm complexes, shifted with this trend towards incorporating dairying practices into the crop farming regime.

Strawberry Hill Farm exhibits evidence of this shift from crop cultivation to dairying. The farm complex retains the hay barn and equipment shed from the late-nineteenth century and the milk house and dairy complex from the early twentieth century.

Statement of Significance:

Strawberry Hill Farm, located at 2815 Calvary Road, Harford County, Maryland, is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic. The farm contains many alterations and additions so much so that the property no longer appropriately conveys the associated period of significance (1880-1940). The immediate area contains better-preserved examples of intact farmsteads.

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of significant persons in our past;
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded or may be likely to yield information important in history or prehistory.

Strawberry Hill Farm located at 2815 Calvary Road is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. The property is not associated with any events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history.

Strawberry Hill Farm is not eligible under Criterion B, as it has no known association with the lives of individuals of historical importance.

Strawberry Hill Farm is not eligible under Criterion C, as the dwelling and the historic outbuildings do not possess the architectural distinctiveness necessary to qualify them for listing in the National Register. The buildings do not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. None of the buildings represent the work of a master nor do they possess high artistic values.

The property was not evaluated for eligibility under Criterion D as part of the current investigation.

Integrity:

Strawberry Hill Farm retains the association and feeling of an agricultural complex surrounded by pastureland on an active farmstead. In addition, the property also retains integrity of setting and location as the farm continues under active agricultural use. However, the house, barn, and many of the outbuildings have undergone alterations, such as replacement siding and windows, that significantly detract from integrity of materials, workmanship, and design. These alterations and additions have ultimately hindered

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Strawberry Hill Farm

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the property's ability to convey its historical period of significance (1880-1940). The Bush Farm, located at 1416 Calvary Road, Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland, is a better-preserved example of a late-nineteenth-century farm complex found within the immediate vicinity. Therefore, Strawberry Hill Farm does not retain sufficient integrity necessary to qualify it for listing in the National Register.

References:

Harford County Office of Land Records, Bel Air, Maryland
1888 Land Record Liber 61, Folio 376

1932 Land Record Liber 221, Folio 293

1932 Land Record Liber 223, Folio 222

1933 Land Record Liber 227, Folio 122

1937 Land Record Liber 244, Folio 235

1957 Land Record Liber 478, Folio 88

2005 Land Record Liber 4587, Folio 24

ND Plat Book Liber 2, Folio 163

Harford County Register of Wills, Bel Air, Maryland
1890 Will Liber 11, Folio 99

Canier, Gabrielle and Bernard L. Herman
1997 Everyday Architecture in the Mid-Atlantic. Johns Hopkins University Press: Baltimore, Maryland.

Martenet, Simon J.
1878 Martenet's Map of Harford County, Maryland. Simon J. Martenet: Baltimore, Maryland.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee
2002 A Field Guide to American Houses. Alfred A. Knopf: New York, New York.

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1997a National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. United States Department of the Interior: Washington DC.

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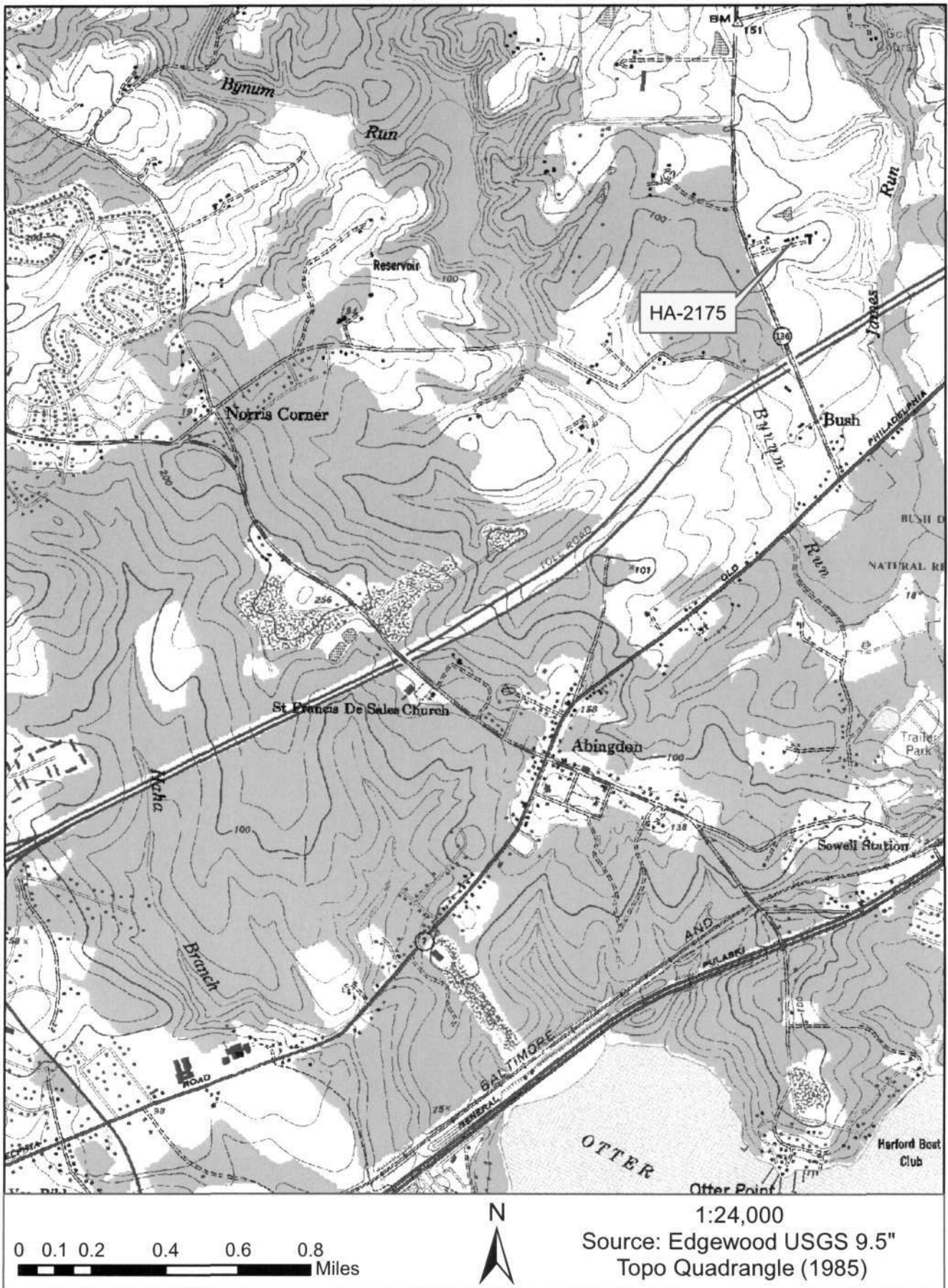
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Strawberry Hill Farm
HA-2175
2815 Calvary Road, Harford County





HA-2175

Strawberry Hill Farm

Harford County, Maryland

E. YOUNG

08.2006

MD SHPD

Dwelling - south elevation, view to north

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Strawberry Hill Farm
Harford County, Maryland

R. YOUNG

08.2006

MD SHPO

Dwelling - south & west elevations; view to NE

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Strawberry Hill Farm

Harford County, Maryland

E. Young

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MP SHPO

Dwelling - north elevation; view to south

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Strawberry Hill Farm

Harford County, Maryland

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Dwelling - east elevation; view to west

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Strawberry Hill Farm

Hatford County, Maryland

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garage - south & west elevations; view to NE

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Strawberry Hill Farm

Harford County, Maryland

E. Young

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Milkhouse - north & west elevations; view to SE

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Strawberry Hill Farm

Harford County, Maryland

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Equipment Shed - south & west elevations; view to NE

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Strawberry Hill Farm
Harford County, Maryland

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Hay Barn - south & west elevations; view to NE

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STRAWBERRY HILL
FARM

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Strawberry Hill Farm

Harford County, Maryland

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Horse Barn - west elevation, view to east

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Strawberry Hill Farm
Howard County, Maryland
E. YOUNG

08, 2006
MD SHPO
Horse Barn & Dairy Complex - view to SE
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